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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 56th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KUKAN (Slovakia)

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The meeting was called to order at noon.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/C.3/48/L.84)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to document A/C.3/48/L.84 on the organization of work of the Third Committee and the draft biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1994-1995.

2. Mr. BUNCH (Chief of the Programme and Documentation Planning Section) said that a number of revisions had been agreed upon at the informal meeting. In annex I, section D, "Programme of work", footnote 3/ should read: "Sub-item (a) is to be discussed separately; sub-items (b), (c) and (d) are to be discussed jointly.", and footnote 4/ should read: "Delegations may make one statement under sub-item (a) and two statements under sub-items (b), (c) and (d), but should not make two statements on any one sub-item."

3. In annex I, the content of item 7, entitled "International drug control", would be listed as a single topic rather than as four separate topics, in line with the omnibus resolution, and a reference would be added to the title of the resolution just adopted in plenary on the question of drugs. Under item 9 (b), the topic "Human rights and terrorism (1994)" should be added.

4. In annex II, under item 7 on international drug control, a reference would also be added to the resolution adopted by plenary. There was a typographical error on page 22 under item 9 (b): draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.64 was entitled "Internally displaced persons".

5. In response to a question asked at the end of the informal meeting, he noted that since information on draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.47 on the human rights education decade was to come to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, it had been joined with the report of the Economic and Social Council under item 9 (a).

6. Annexes I and II of document A/C.3/48/L.84, as orally revised, were approved.

7. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should approve the following draft decisions:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/54 of 29 July 1993,

"Decides to declare 3 May World Press Freedom Day";

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 47/5 of 16 October 1992 and Economic and Social Council decision 1993/238 of 27 July 1993,

(The Chairman)

"Decides to redesignate the International Year of Older Persons (1999) as the International Year of the Elderly";

"The General Assembly,

"Takes note of the report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters I, II, V (sections A, C and J), VII and IX)."

8. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 114: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued) (A/C.3/48/L.77)

Draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.77: human rights and scientific and technological progress

9. Mr. LEPESHKO (Belarus), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution said that a number of amendments had been made to the text. At the end of the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "and that illicit dumping of toxic and dangerous products and waste potentially constitutes a serious threat to the human rights to life and health of everyone" should be added. In preambular paragraph 11, the words "to ensure their use in favour of economic and social progress for all" should be replaced by "that their use in favour of economic and social progress be to the benefit of all".

10. The end of operative paragraph 2, following the words "ecological environment", should read: ", that is, inter alia, measures against the illicit dumping of toxic and dangerous products and waste;". At the beginning of operative paragraph 3, the words "Emphasizes that" should be replaced by the words "Emphasizes the fact that many advances in". In the second line, after the words "other social spheres", the following should be added: "with a view to sustainable development". The words "while taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights" should be added at the end of the paragraph.

11. After a discussion in which Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland), Mr. LEPESHKO (Belarus), Mr. BLACKMAN (Barbados) and Mrs. SHERMAN-PETER (Bahamas) took part, Mr. MAQUIEIRA (Chile) said that as the amendment to the eighth preambular paragraph was a direct quotation from the first part of paragraph 11 of the Vienna Declaration it would be preferable to use the word "substances" instead of "products"; the next part of paragraph 11 of the Declaration used the word "products", which was more directly relevant to operative paragraph 2, and could thus be retained in that paragraph.

12. Draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.77, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution on the High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights

13. Mr. AYALA LASSO (Ecuador), speaking as Chairman of the Working Group of the Third Committee, said that the Working Group had reached consensus on the text of a draft resolution which would be issued in his report as Chairman of the Working Group. With reference to the provisions of the draft resolution concerning financial resources, the Working Group had agreed that what had been adopted was without prejudice to the prerogatives of the Fifth Committee in that regard.

14. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that his delegation intended to withdraw its draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.59 upon the presentation of the report by the Working Group.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that in view of the statement by the United States delegation, the amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.59 were no longer valid.

16. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria) asked whether the draft resolution on the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be presented by the delegation of Ecuador.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that since the draft resolution on the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be presented in the report of the Chairman of the Working Group as a consensus text, there was no need to list any sponsors.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.